**Red-Tapism affects army preparedness**

†5508. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Dhanabhav se nahin, Lal pheetashahi se prabhaavit hai sainya taiyari; Malik" as published in Dainik Jagaran of 17th February, 2000;

(b) whether Government have prepared any scheme to avoid the loss to army because of procedure and delay in this process instead of lack of fund; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Defence Procurement Procedure was formulated and prescribed in 1992 by the Government. The procedure is comprehensive and includes measures to ensure that a conclusive and objective view is taken will selecting a weapon/weapon system and that extraneous factors do not influence the decision. The procedure is designed for procuring equipment against Qualitative Requirements specified, approved and confirmed by the user, through a system of trials and evaluation by the Services and through a process of competitive tendering to ensure cost advantages. Government is fully alive to the needs of the country's defence preparedness and all steps are being taken to streamline the procurement process and to minimise the time taken in decision making. The Government have considered the comments made in certain quarters that Defence Procurement Procedures are coming in the way of time bound acquisition by the Armed Forces. In order to further streamline the procedure, a committee has been set up under Chairmanship of Vice Chief of Army Staff to examine the existing Defence Procurement Procedure in its entirety with a view to suggest specific measures for speedier processing of procurement cases.

**Amount due for IAF Aircrafts**

5509. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item titled "Overdue

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.